

I welcome Mr. Faizulla to America. Perhaps one day he will escape the world of academia and see what makes America great instead of being indoctrinated as to why it is so bad.

Stephen Crawford
Seattle

CHANGE THE SYSTEM

There's only one way to prevent the "spoiling" of presidential elections: Change the electoral system so it can fairly accommodate more than two candidates. How can participation — the very heart of *participatory* democracy — be considered spoiling?

The problem isn't too many candidates, the problem is an antiquated and anti-democratic electoral system which forces many people to vote for a lesser-evil candidate instead of one who shares their values. Instant Runoff Voting solves this problem. Learn more about it at www.fairvote.org

Green Party presidential nominee David Cobb is on the ballot in Oregon offering voters a chance to support a candidate and a growing party who call for an immediate end to the occupation of Iraq, single-payer health care, a living wage, repeal of the PATRIOT Act, renewable energy, a solar economy and an end to the war on drugs.

Only the Green Party offers a genuine, progressive voting alternative *and* the opportunity to be part of a movement which will continue regardless of who wins on Nov. 2. Check out www.pacificgreens.org and www.votecobb.org to get involved or to learn more about your voting options.

A vote for the Green Party is a vote for peace and hope. If *EW* readers won't support our presidential ticket this time around, we urge you to register Pacific Green to show your support for ending the war and bringing our troops home now.

Blair Bobier
Cobb-LaMarche campaign
Corvallis

HIGHEST BIDDER

One spin on the greenish forest-friendly comment of Secretary of Agriculture Ann Venneman: "Our actions today advance President Bush's commitment to cooperatively conserving roadless areas on national forests," translates: "National forest roadless areas are having a going out of business, or government, sale — big trees soon to be available to the highest bidder at or below our cost!"

(Psst ... there could be more up for sale. CEOs get your stock options ready to roll.)

New roads make bigger silt loads, clearcuts, lost headwater salmon spawning sites, and a faster flush of high country water. Hatcheries, hydro dams and bottled water are all good new ways to turn a second profit after the give-away of roadless area trees. Why not sell Judge Hogan's "unendangered" hatchery salmon! Bottled water and subsidized (dammed near clean) power contracts going out to special campaign contributors like Haliburton, PG&E, Weyerhaeuser, or out-of-the-bankruptcy-grave mutant End-run.

Cooperative conservation capitalist CEOs get ready to sink financial claws into this new backcountry scratching post! Purrfect!

Vennemen keeps smiling. Somebody's

buying timber, a used ex-roadless area, and some wasted watersheds for hydropower and hatchery sites from her. Jus' hep' them good ol' boys' accountants guarantee rock bottom prices. The post election victory party likely features factory-farmed "recovery" salmon, hors d'oeuvres on fancy paper plates, a private subsidy hydro power watershed light show and high-brow designer water — all free (fer now anyway).

Ethen Perkins
Eugene

ART OF MANY COLORS

Annie Kayner, in her recent letters to the *Weekly* (6/10 and 8/26), has been working very hard to let us all know what "real art" is, and what a "real artist" is made of. Or, more to the point, what her *opinion* of "real" is, which I'm no doubt sure is astonishingly similar to the type of art she creates and the type of artist she is. I find it quite disturbing to discover that she apparently is incapable of appreciating that some of us might look at art a different way. Think about it, Ms. Kayner: If we all felt exactly the same way about art, if we all maintained the exact same beliefs about what art *was*, then all of the art would be the same, and therefore, not very artful.

So while, believe me, I know it's hard for any artist ("real" or not) to accept the fact that some folks might not love a piece as much as the artist does, or want to pay for it as much as the artist feels it is worth, I also cherish the fact that art comes in many varieties, and on the days I feel the need to indulge in the last refuge of the frustrated artist — pontificating about how "the unwashed masses will never understand how brilliant I am" — are the days I remind myself that if I enjoy what I'm doing, I don't give a hoot what anybody else has to say about it. If I don't want the government to tell me what a marriage or a family is, why would I want *anyone* to tell me what art is?

Durden Kent
Eugene

CORPORATE WHORES

I'd like to give a shout-out to Shawn Mediaclast (8/26) for exposing Face the Music for the corporate whore it is. Just the other day, I was paying for a Pernice Brothers CD when the cute girl behind the counter shoved a chloroform rag underneath my nose. I don't remember what happened next, but I fear that someday my phone will ring, the trigger song will play (John Ashcroft's "Let the Eagles Soar"), and I'll assassinate Noam Chomsky without remembering it. You can see my story in *The Manchurian Candidate II*, hitting theaters next year.

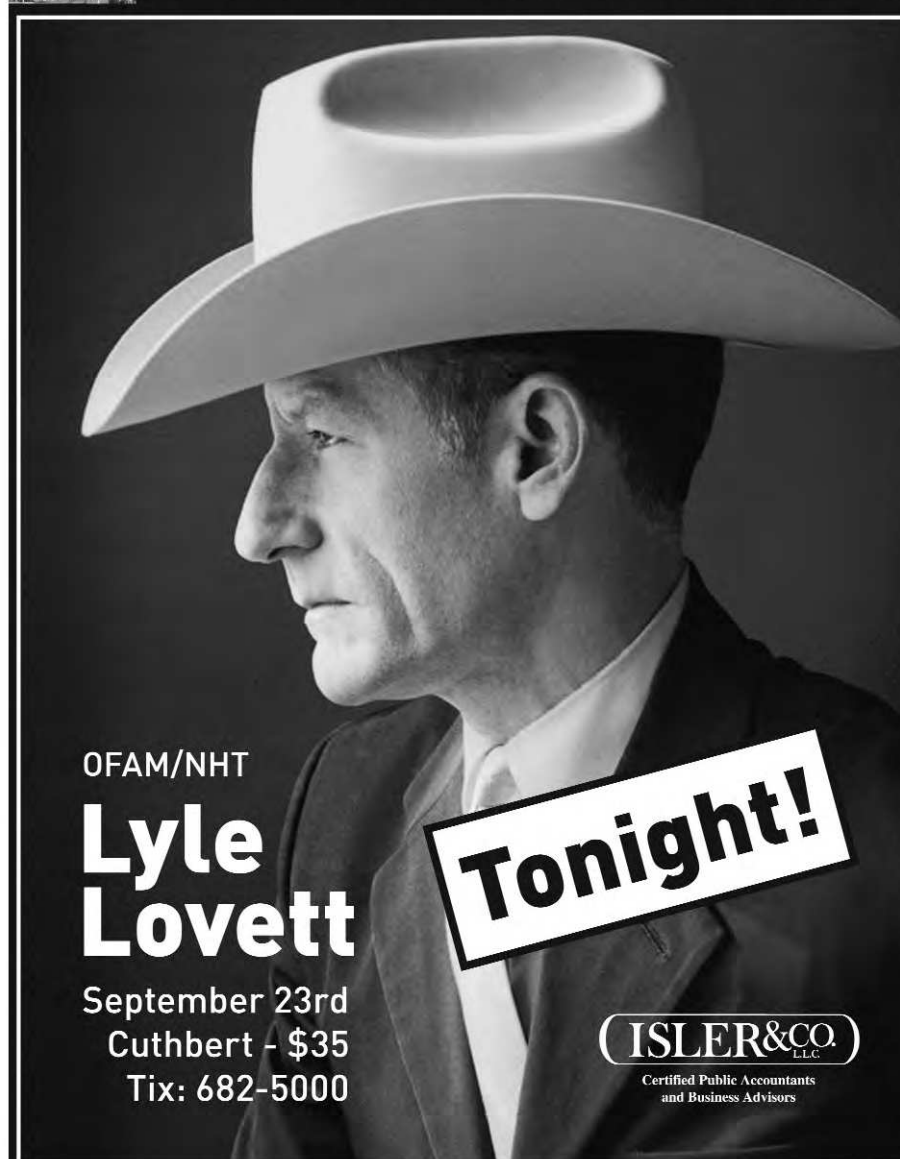
Oh, wait, it'll be released by a corporate studio, and deep down we all know that any art (books, music, art) is dried-up, hypocritical, and downright evil unless it's made by and for snot-nosed hipsters who hang out in clubs drinking PBR and hitting on purple-haired alternative babes. So I suppose us peons will go to work, raise families, and lead lives of quiet desperation, our souls crying out, "Why did we sell out? Why didn't we listen to no-wave and glitch? Why weren't we as cool as Shawn Mediaclast?"

You rebel, you.

Kris Bluth
Eugene



OFAM at The Shedd

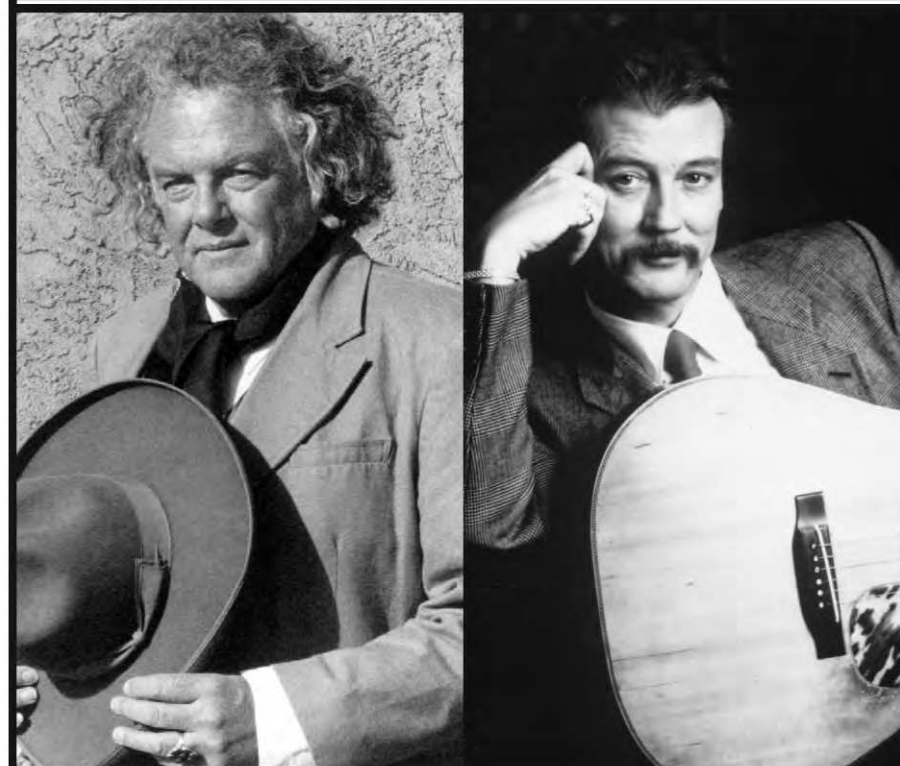


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